

WAUKEGAN, ILL. - Recognizing the vital efforts of Lake County law enforcement in the fight against the more than 2,000 documented drug gang members living north of Lake-Cook Road, U.S. Representative Mark Kirk and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani honored local police officers at the Waukegan Airport today. Congressman Kirk and Mayor Giuliani thanked dozens of uniformed police officers and presented a U.S. House resolution chronicling the efforts of local police to keep Lake County residents safe from gangs, guns and drugs.

“Nothing destroys a community faster than gang violence,” Congressman Kirk said. “As Chicago continues to move aggressively against criminals, we see gangbangers leaving the city and setting up shop in the suburbs. There are now more than 2,000 gang members living north of Lake-Cook Road – and they bring with them crime, drugs and guns. But law enforcement in Lake County is rising to meet the challenge to keep these violent gangs off the streets. With a fraction of the resources that larger cities have, communities like Waukegan, North Chicago and Gurnee are banding together to share intelligence and resources to eliminate this threat. I am honored to have ‘America’s Mayor’ Rudy Giuliani join me in thanking those men and women who wake up and risk their lives every day in service to their community.”

Among the police officers honored were Detective Sturtevant and Lt. Florip of the Waukegan Police Department. During the execution of a search warrant this year, a handcuffed and still fighting suspect attempted to pull a gun on officers at the scene. After an intense struggle the suspect was subdued, saving the lives of their fellow officers. Also attending is Detective Agalianos, who along with five other officers pursued and arrested a Maniac Latin Disciple gang member, paroled just 10 days earlier. The gang member had a loaded gun and information had been obtained that he was looking to shoot a police officer.

Also joining Congressman Kirk were Waukegan Police Chief Bill Biang, North Chicago Police Chief Michael Newsome and Gurnee Detective Jesse Gonzales.

As a former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and mayor of New York City from 1993 to 2002, Mayor Giuliani made fighting crime one of his top priorities. During his tenure as mayor, overall crime decreased by 57 percent, and murders decreased by 65 percent.

The Kirk Resolution honors Lake County Law enforcement for their pioneering efforts at targeting drug gangs and interagency cooperation. Earlier this year, Congressman Kirk

announced an \$846,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant that he secured for a new Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce to coordinate federal and local law enforcement agencies to combat violent drug gangs operating out of Waukegan. The new taskforce allows local law enforcement to pursue federal prosecution and longer sentencing. Facing 20 years in federal prison (no parole) instead of less than five in state prison, low-level gang members are now more likely to turn against their gangs.

Congressman Kirk, federal and local police teamed up again in March to launch the Most Wanted List to raise the public profile of fugitive gang leaders. After newspapers, radio and television publicized the wanted criminals, tips flooded in to law enforcement agencies, resulting in the arrest of three gang leaders.

Last year, ATF, the Lake County State's Attorney Office and the Waukegan Police Department announced the conclusion of Operation "Smack That," targeting the heroin drug ring of the Black P-Stones operating in Waukegan, North Chicago and Zion. The Black P-Stones operated a sophisticated drug operation, including selling drugs near Waukegan public schools and churches. The work of the ATF and Waukegan's Neighborhood Enforcement Team resulted in nine indictments and the seizure of \$19,000 worth of heroin, firearms and body armor.

The Kirk Resolution as introduced in the U.S. House is below.

110TH CONGRESS

2D SESSION

H. RES. 1465

Recognizing the work of the law enforcement officers in Lake County, Illinois, their cooperative work with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents, and expressing congressional support for their ongoing work protecting Lake County communities from drugs and gangs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KIRK submitted the following resolution

Whereas recent figures from the State of Illinois show a 3.1 percent increase in serious crime in Lake County from 2005 to 2006, while there was a 1.7 percent drop in statewide violent and

property crimes during the same time period;

Whereas the recently created Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce coordinates Federal and local law enforcement agencies to combat rising violence and drug gangs operating in Lake County, Illinois;

Whereas the Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce allows local law enforcement to pursue Federal prosecution and longer sentencing, increasing the likelihood of low-level gang members, who now could face 20 years in Federal prison without parole instead of less than five years in State prison, turning against their gangs;

Whereas other regional law enforcement cooperative initiatives have been launched to tackle the problem of rising crime, including the Lake County Major Crimes Task Force and the Metropolitan Enforcement Group;

Whereas Congressman Mark Steven Kirk and Federal and local police teamed up again in March, 2008, to launch Lake County's "Top Ten Most Wanted List" to raise the public profile of fugitive gang leaders, and after newspapers, radio, and television networks publicized the Wanted List tips flooded in to law enforcement agencies resulting in the arrest of three gang leaders;

Whereas last year the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Lake County State's Attorney Office, and the Waukegan Police Department announced the conclusion of Operation "Smack That," targeting the heroin drug ring of the Black P-Stones, a gang involved in a sophisticated drug operation—including selling drugs near Waukegan public school and churches—based in Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion, Illinois;

Whereas the work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Waukegan Police Department Neighborhood Enforcement Team (referred to in this resolution as "NET") resulted in nine indictments and the seizure of \$19,000 worth of heroin, firearms, and body armor;

Whereas in the past year NET detectives have been involved in several dangerous situations involving criminals, including—

- (1) an incident where a Latin King Gang member attempted to shoot members of NET;
- (2) an attempt by a suspect, during the execution of a search warrant, to pull a gun on members of NET and where the suspect was arrested after a brief struggle; and
- (3) the pursuit and arrest of a Maniac Latin Disciple Gang member, paroled just 10 days earlier, on foot through a city park with a loaded hand gun and where information had been obtained that this gang member was looking to shoot a police officer;

Whereas since 2006 the NET has been responsible for—

- (1) 869 gang and drug investigations;
- (2) 793 arrests;
- (3) executing 186 search warrants;
- (4) confiscating 145 guns from gang members and drug dealers;
- (5) seizing 91 kilos of cocaine, 109 pounds of marijuana, and 807 grams of heroin;
- (6) seizing over \$462,000 in drug money; and
- (7) solving 43 gang shootings;

Whereas in March, 2007, North Chicago police completed “Operation Eight Ball,” an eight month investigation into an open-air drug market in the 1300 block of Broadway Avenue;

Whereas Operation Eight Ball under cover agents risked their lives posing as drug dealers and buyers to line up evidence against the criminals and following their investigation six suspects were arrested after a 28-count indictment by a grand jury;

Whereas through the actions of the North Chicago Police Department, other local departments, the Lake County Sheriff’s office, and the Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group, a menace to the community was eliminated;

Whereas Detective Luis Rivera of the North Chicago Police Department Tactical Narcotics Team exemplifies the outstanding service of North Chicago Police officers; and

Whereas aside from fulfilling his duties as a narcotics and gang investigator, Detective Rivera also serves on the North Chicago Police Department Major Crime Evidence Team, as a

firearms instructor, tech officer, bike patrolman, and former SWAT officer and beyond his tireless

dedication to the department Detective Rivera has consistently displayed an extraordinary commitment to his community:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the excellent work of law enforcement officers in Lake County, Illinois—including the Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce and the Waukegan Police Department Neighborhood Enforcement Team—and their cooperative work with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents.